

Super Kmart Center spruces up for debut

By Lesli Hicks

Express News Business Writer

Shawn Davis, Texas Longhorn cap and flannel shirt askew, is a cheerleader for the new Super Kmart Center at Nakoma Drive and U.S. 281.

Davis, a 22-year-old Madison High School graduate, is training to be a garden-shop associate in the 700-employee store under preparation for a "soft" opening Feb. 25. Its grand opening is scheduled for March 3.

He answered regional manager William Bradley correctly Thursday during the morning pep rally.

"What's that giant sucking noise?" Bradley asked, referring to an anticipated sound when Su-

per Kmart cracks its doors for the first time, and also making a reference to former presidential candidate Ross Perot, who had predicted such a sound would be heard as U.S. jobs headed to Mexico with passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"Wal-Mart!" Davis shouted, alluding to grocery-selling Wal-Mart from which Kmart reportedly has siphoned business in other markets where the two go head-to-head.

The pep rally, like those before Friday night football games, will become routine at the 24-hour, 179,623 square-foot center

See **KMART/2D**



PHOTO BY JERRY LARA

Employees take a break Thursday outside the Super Kmart Center at 12300 San Pedro Ave., which will have a grand opening March 3.